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# *Middletown*

*The Metropolis of Orange County*



# Middletown Times-Press

A MODERN AND PROGRESSIVE  
NEWSPAPER—TYPICAL OF THE  
CITY IT HAS HELPED TO GROW  
AND WHICH IT THOROUGHLY  
COVERS



HOME OF THE TIMES-PRESS

**A**DVERTISERS wishing to secure the best publicity in Orange County will be furnished rate cards, circulation statement and any other necessary information they may desire, on receipt of request—Associated Press Reports, County Correspondence, City and Suburban News, together with Half-tone Illustrations, Special News and Editorial Features—make the TIMES-PRESS the leading Journal in its field.

Daily, \$3.50 per Year

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## STIVERS PRINTING COMPANY

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# MIDDLETOWN

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The Metropolis  
of  
Orange County

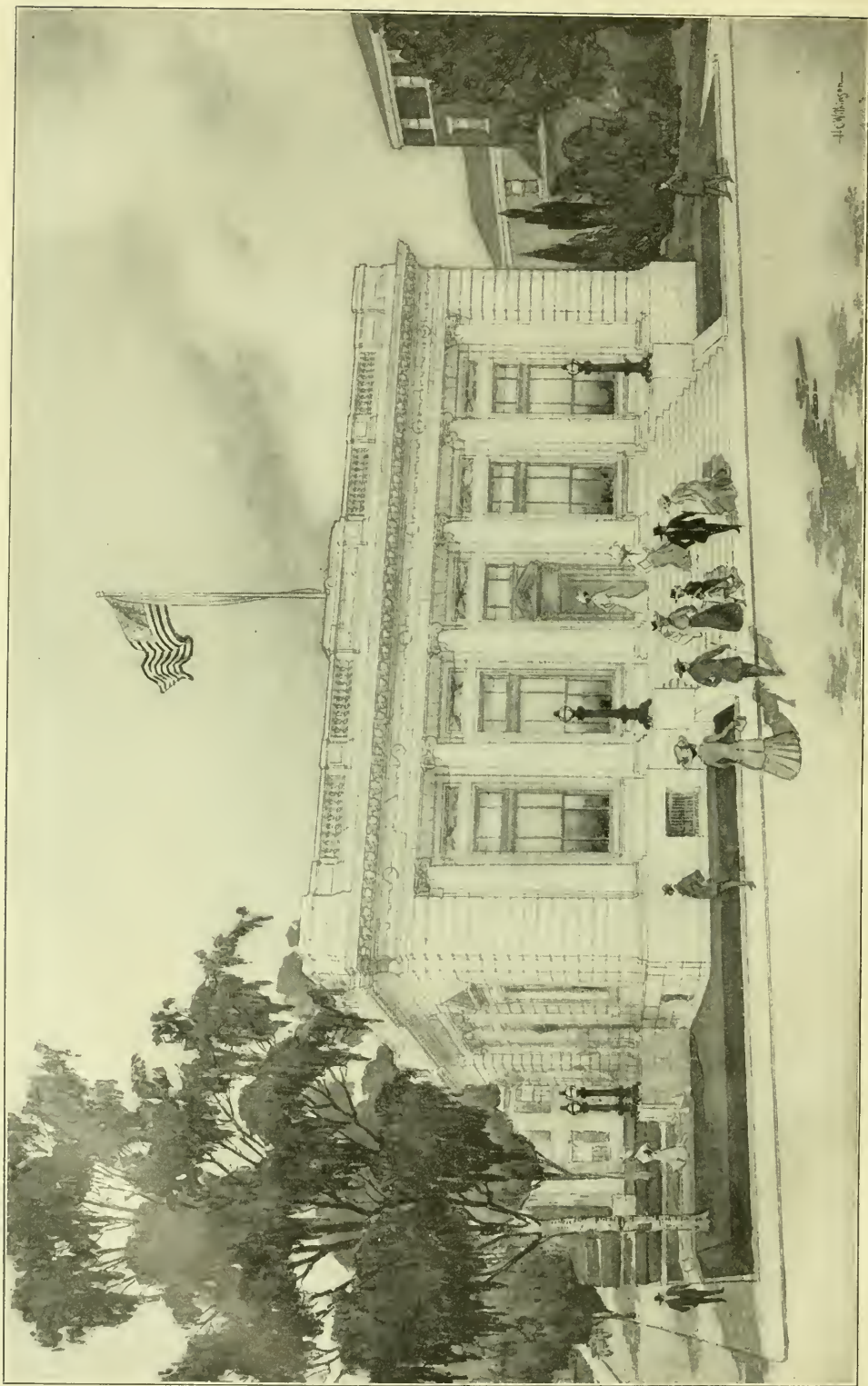


Published by the  
Business Men's Association  
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MCMX

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Extra copies of this Booklet may be obtained on application. Inquiries from Homeseekers are cordially invited, and any information desired will be promptly furnished.

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THE NEW POST OFFICE AT MIDDLETOWN

# MIDDLETOWN\*

**S**ITUATED in the south part of Wallkill, and said to have received its name from the fact that the place is midway between Montgomery and Mount Hope, Middletown is six miles west of Goshen, the county seat, and is pleasantly situated in an open, level, and fertile section of the county. The precise time when the first settlement was made in the village is not determined, though it was doubtless a few years preceding the Revolutionary War.

John Green purchased about that time of DeLancey, a patentee under the Crown of Great Britain, a tract of land, including that where the Congregational Church now stands and the southern portion of the village generally. It is a tradition that the name was agreed upon when the people assembled to raise the meeting-house. It was discussed something after this fashion: "What shall it be? There is Dolsentown on the south, Goshen on the east, Scotchtown on the north, and a place on the west called Shawangunk. We will call it Middletown, it being in the centre."

That portion of the city lying northeast of Robert Street is in lot No. 35 of the Minisink Angle, which lot was bought about 1755 or 1756 by Samuel Wickham and Daniel Moore. A settlement then commenced was broken up by hostile Indians during the French War, but was resumed a few years later and just before the Revolution. On the division of this lot, Daniel Moore took that portion lying northwest of High Street and northeast of the line that divided the farms owned in late years by P. H. Horton and Thomas E. Hulse; and Samuel Wickham the central portion between the aforesaid lines, the whole of which was divided among their children and settled by them respectively. To Samuel he gave that portion nearest the centre of the village, to Israel the farms owned in late years by I. O. Beattie, Israel H. Wickham, and others, and to Nathaniel Wells the farm owned in modern times by P. H. Horton.

Samuel was the first settler, and lived where Mrs. Shaw resided in later years. He soon commenced keeping a house for the accommodation of travelers. The Minisink Road being a favorite route for emigrants to the West, this early tavern was well patronized.

As early as 1742, Mr. Clinton, a surveyor employed in running out lot No. 35, mentions having crossed the "Minisink Road," in several places while engaged in locating and subdividing the lot. The road is thus shown to be of considerable antiquity. A point on the road about a mile west of Middletown village was known as the White

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\*Photographic work in this book by A. H. Still, of Mitchell Studio, and Ketcham & Milburn.

# Merchants National Bank

37 North Street

MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK



Capital, - - \$100,000

Surplus  
Undivided Profits  
\$85,166.01

Deposits, - \$1,684,273.18

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MAUD HOUSTON, - Stenographer



Oak Bridge, from the fact that a bridge made of white oak poles was used for crossing the creek; this bridge was in existence probably as late as 1800.

The western portion of Middletown was included in lot No. 36, in the Minisink Angle, owned by DeLancey, and as he espoused the royal cause his land, except what was sold to Mr. Green before the Revolution, was confiscated by the State of New York. Three appraisers were appointed by the State to put a value on the land, two of whom were Israel Wickham and Henry Wisner. Mr. John N. Pronk, from whose account in the gazettes of 1857 these facts are derived, had learned from a witness to the appraisal that there was an earnest debate on the subject of valuation whether to call it six shillings or a dollar an acre. Wickham insisting that it would never be worth a dollar an acre, it was put down at six shillings. The land confiscated takes in the western part of the village and present city and consisted of about 200 acres. Part of this land could not be bought for \$10,000 an acre now.

Other early settlers of Middletown were Capt. Jonathan Owen, Abel Woodhull, Daniel Wells and Nathaniel Wells, Joseph Baird, Wm. Baird, Henry B. Wisner, Mattias Keene, Daniel Corwin, Isaiah Vail, Dr. Hanford, Jesse Corwin, Elisha Corwin, Gabriel Wells, John Wells, Moses H. Corwin, and Stacey Beakes, all of whom contributed more or less to its prosperity.



NEW CITY HALL



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LOTS SOLD ON EASY TERMS

Large number of Farms and Suburban property.

The first store was kept by Abel Woodhull.

Isaiah Vail also had an early store at Monhagen, opposite the White Oak Bridge mentioned above.

At a Court of Sessions held at the court-house in Newburgh, February 10, 1848, present, David W. Bate, county judge, Samuel W. Eager, Frederick Hoyt, justices of sessions, Stacey Beakes, John B. Hanford, Lewis Vail, Israel

**Incorporation** O. Beattie, and E. M. Madden made application to have Middletown incorporated.

The Court appointed Henry S. Beakes, Israel H. Wickham, and W. W. Reeve to call a meeting of citizens to vote "no" or "yes." The election was held at the house of Joseph Monell, March 25, 1848.

The first election was held April 20th. Under the same date Henry S. Beakes, Israel H. Wickham, and William H. Reeve certify to the county judge that they presided as inspectors of election at a meeting held at the house of Joseph Monell on that day; that the proposition to incorporate the village of Middletown was adopted by a vote of one hundred and twenty-three in the affirmative and seventy-seven in the negative.

**First Election** The publication of the required number of notices was verified by the affidavit of J. S. Brown. The proceedings were approved by Judge D. W. Bate, and recorded April 7, 1848.

The officers other than trustees and clerk were Nathan H. Corwin, Wm. M. Graham, and Edward M. Madden, assessors; Wm. M. Graham, treasurer; Hiram V. King, collector; and Courtland S. Hulse, poundmaster.



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**MIDDLETOWN, N. Y.**

The first meeting of the trustees was held at the shop of C. S. Hulse, on North Street. Stacey Beakes was appointed president. Messrs. Beattie, Hoyt, and Dusen-  
berre were named as a committee to ascertain the expense of  
**Early Town** procuring the incorporation, the purchase of the necessary blank  
**Business** books, the probable cost of an engine-house, and to select a proper  
location for the same; to confer with the owners of Protection Fire  
Engine, No. 2, now in this village, as to the terms on which said engine can be procured.  
At a subsequent meeting the committee reported the expenses of incorporation as  
follows:

John C. Dimmick, Esq., professional services.....	\$ 2.00
Israel O. Beattie, services .....	4.50
Wm. W. Reeve, Esq., surveyor .....	8.14
Isaac H. Wickham, inspector of election .....	2.62½
John S. Brown, printing .....	12.65
Total .....	\$29.92

Other claims were added afterwards (see below).

The committee reported with reference to "Protection Fire Engine Company, No. 2," that the owners of the engine had been represented before the board by Henry P. Roberts and Henry S. Horton, who had offered to sell at a "fair and reasonable price." In the matter of an engine-house the committee reported that Richard Van Horn, builder, had calculated the expense at \$350; that the Congregational Church had





VIEW OF HIGHLAND AVENUE

expressed a willingness to lease the ground occupied by the old engine-house for the erection of a new house.

The trustees voted to submit to the electors resolutions to raise:

For stationery .....	\$15.00
Oil and fuel .....	10.00
Keeping engine in repair .....	15.00
	<hr/>
	\$40.00
Expense of incorporation .....	\$45.00
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$85.00

The growth of Middletown has always been gradual, and it has never been what might be called a "boom town." In 1807 the population was forty-five; in 1838 it had increased to 433; in 1848, at the time of its incorporation, it had increased to 1,360; and in 1857, to 2,190. At the time of its incorporation as a city, in 1888, its population had increased to 11,977. The census of 1910, gives 17,309—an increase of over 18 per cent. in the last 10 years.

## Gradual Growth

Middletown's Leading Industry

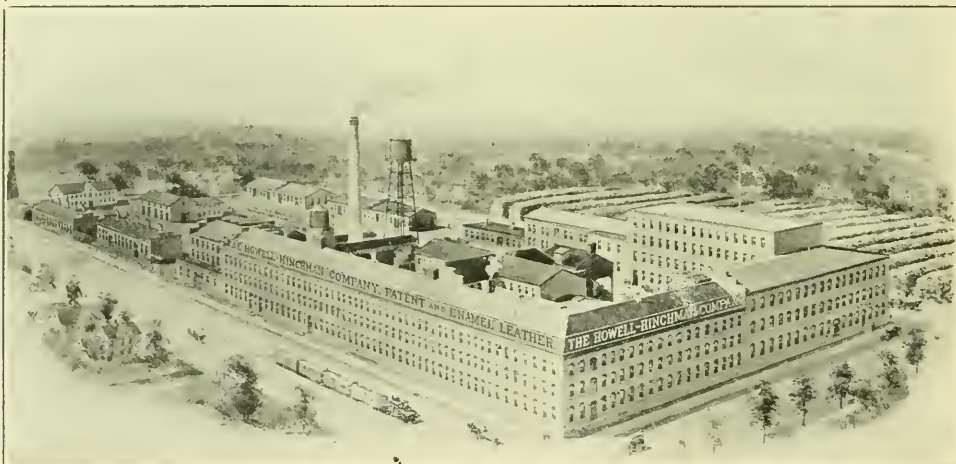
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**Russet & Fancy Leathers of Every Description**

---

**MIDDLETOWN, N. Y.**



Its present extensive manufactures, its valuable trade, its multiplied churches, its superior institutions of learning, its large population, are all mostly of modern development. The construction of the Erie Railroad gave to Middletown its first decided impulse, and led to its rapid growth, to its stirring business activities, to its diversified institutions of charity, religion, and education. These results have not been wholly secured by fortunate circumstances. The leading citizens were men of far-seeing faith in the capabilities of the place, but they were also men of industry and enterprise, and knew that great results were not achieved by idly waiting on even the most favorable condition of affairs. They planned largely, they invented wisely, they looked to the future, but with steady industry they also toiled to execute their plans, to make their investments profitable, and render Middletown what they desired to have it.

Middletown is sixty-seven miles from New York, reached by the Erie, the N. Y., O. & W., and the Susquehanna and Western Railroads, and is the second largest city in the county.

With its location, financial ability, numerous business enterprises, its many social, benevolent, charitable, and religious associations and institutions, its splendid school system, and with the enterprise, energy, and business ability of its citizens, the Middletown of to-day is only a beginning of the greater Middletown.

The city was incorporated by an act of the Legislature of the State of New York, known as Chapter 535 of the Laws of 1888, and John E.

**City Government** Iseman became its first mayor. The city, as now incorporated, contains 2,330½ acres.

The city is divided into four wards. The general city officers are: A mayor,

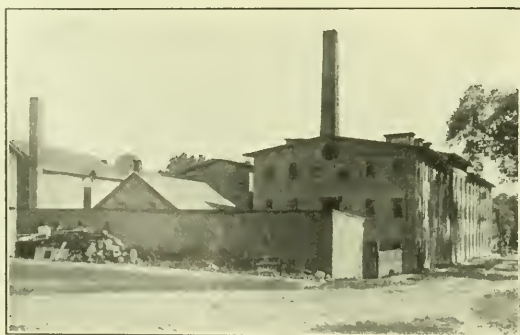


THRALL PARK AND HOSPITAL

# MIDDLETOWN SILK COMPANY

COMMISSION THROWSTERS

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y.



MIDDLETOWN  
CHEMICAL CO.  
MANUFACTURING  
CHEMISTS  
MIDDLETOWN, N. Y.

HOME OF  
"PER-MAN-EO"  
PRODUCTS

Robert Lawrence, now holding the office; president of the common council, two aldermen for each ward, city clerk and collector, city treasurer, corporation counsel, city engineer and surveyor, superintendent of streets, recorder, two justices of the peace, and three assessors. Each ward also elects one supervisor, the duties of whose office are the same as those of town supervisors. A new City Hall built of brick with stone trim has recently been constructed at a cost of \$80,000.

The post office in Middletown was first established on the 22d of October, 1816. Stacey Beakes was appointed the first postmaster and held the office for about ten years. The first quarter's receipts in 1817, as rendered by the post-

**Post Office** master, were \$0.69; in 1826, the receipts had risen to \$16.12 a quarter; and in 1854, to \$257.79. The annual receipts of the Middletown post office are now upwards of \$50,000. James F. Moore is the present postmaster. A beautiful new building of granite and Indiana limestone is now being built. The cost with ground will be about \$100,000. See illustration on another page.

Middletown has a most complete water system supplied by three reservoirs, located in the towns of Walkill and Mount Hope, and named, respectively, Monhagen, Highland, and Shawangunk. All water is of excellent quality but is thoroughly filtered before being conveyed to the city. Two million five hundred thousand gallons is the estimated daily consumption.

**Water System** Middletown has a most excellent and efficient fire department, of which Charles Higham is the chief. The force, as now organized, consists of one hook and ladder company, truck drawn by horses; five hose and engine companies, two of them having chemical wagons drawn by horses; one engine company, new steamer drawn by horses. The city has a complete system of Gamewell electric fire alarms, with forty-seven boxes in service.

Middletown has about forty-seven regularly organized charitable, benevolent, fraternal, and social organizations and clubs, exclusive of labor organizations, societies and organizations connected with its railroads. Of the latter there are nine, and of the labor organizations, twenty.

A fine State armory is located here, which is the headquarters of the First Battalion, First Regiment, N. G. N. Y., A. E. McIntyre, major, commanding. This armory is also the home of Company I (24th Separate Company), First Regiment, N. G. N. Y., of which E. Madden Decker is the captain. See illustration.

There are two Grand Army Posts in Middletown, viz., General Lyon Post No. 266; Capt. William A. Jackson, Post No. 301.

The banking interests of Middletown are represented by the following banks: First National Bank, capital \$100,000; Merchants National Bank, capital \$100,000; Orange County Trust Company Bank, capital \$100,000; and the Middletown Savings Bank.

This Bank was organized early in the spring of 1885 and opened for business on May 12th of that year. During its existence of more than a quarter of a century, it has grown steadily in the confidence of the community, until it is now

**Merchants National Bank** known far and wide as a bulwark of financial strength and stability. Its growth has been of that nature which appeals to every thoughtful observer, showing that its foundation was laid deep and strong. It has grown to that point where it is the largest National Bank in



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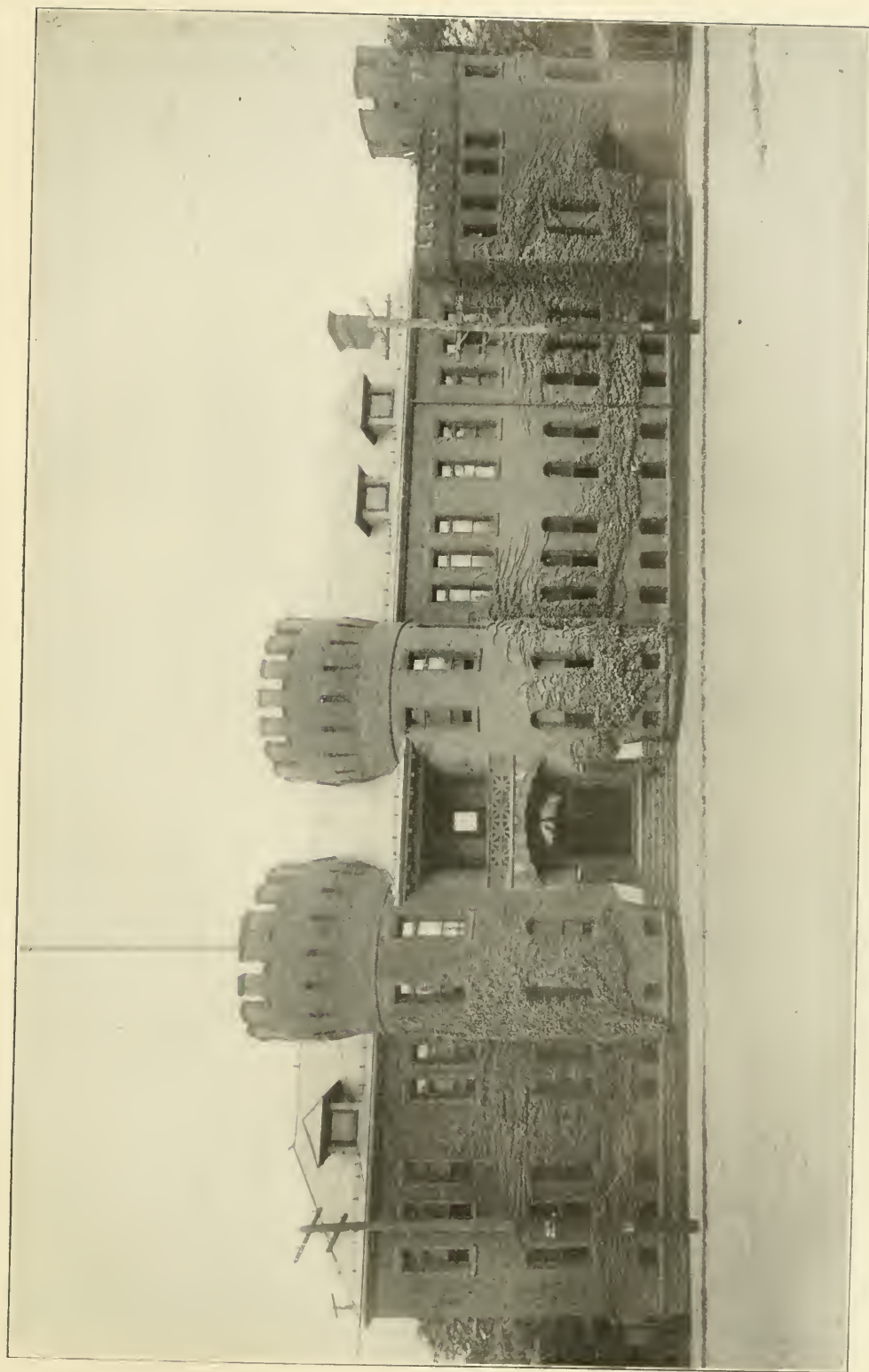
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MIDDLETOWN, N. Y.



ANNEX YARD

Orange County, and, with the exception of institutions in the larger cities, one of the largest in the State of New York.

Its directors have always been men who recognized the responsibility of the trust reposed in them, and have faithfully endeavored to fulfil the duties required of them by the National Banking Act.

It has ever been the aim of the directors and officers to serve the community in which it is located, in a broad and comprehensive way, while, at the same time, observing those principles of sound banking and finance which alone can commend an institution to its patrons.

Many of the methods in banking practice, recently inaugurated by the Comptroller's office in Washington, D. C., have been in vogue in this institution for years, thus showing that the officers and directors alike have been animated by the desire to give the community the best service and protection.

## The Orange County Telephone Company

THE telephone situation is handled by one company, the Orange County Telephone Company, which has a common battery system, and serves about 1,600 subscribers, including the surrounding farmers.

It has connections with the New York Telephone Company and all of the Independent companies for handling the long distance business.

The Company's officers are representative business men of Middletown, consisting of Dr. Edwin Fancher, president; Archibald Taylor, vice-president; Edmund Millen, treasurer; John McWilliams, secretary and assistant treasurer, and H. Verne Weed, manager.

The Wallkill Transit Company operates over twelve miles of trolley, covering the principal streets of Middletown, and runs directly through Mechanicstown and Goshen. City service fifteen minutes, Goshen service thirty minutes. The city is lighted by both



ERIE RAILROAD STATION

# Gordon Lumber Company

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TELEPHONE CALL 181





STATE HOSPITAL

gas and electricity, streets well paved, and a general system of sanitary sewers is provided throughout. The police force is adequate and efficient.

The free public library of Middletown known as the Thrall Library Building, is architecturally an ornament to the city, and is fitted up in the most modern style for library purposes. The lot was formerly used as a location for the village school. Mrs. S. Maretta Thrall left a legacy of \$30,000 to the city, which with interest, was increased to \$33,000, and with which the library was built and equipped. Mrs. Thrall by her liberality provided Middletown with a library of which its citizens are justly proud, and erected for herself a monument in this city and in the hearts of its people which will be as enduring as time. The library at present contains 12,000 volumes. The library is open to the public every day in the year except legal holidays and Sundays. The legacy bequeathed by Mrs. Thrall was to be used exclusively for the building and was so used. See illustration elsewhere.

## Public Library

## Schools

**T**HE school system of Middletown was originated by the holding of a meeting April 6, 1813, to take steps to comply with the statute of 1812 for the organization of the common school system of the State. The first commissioners elected were William Hurtin, Jacob Dunning, and Benjamin Woodward. In

## Organization

1844 a system of supervision by town superintendents was inaugurated. Previous to that several citizens were selected who decided upon the qualifications of the teacher. John G. Wilkin, afterwards county judge of Orange County, was the first town superintendent of Walkill, which included

Foremost Newspaper  
of Orange County

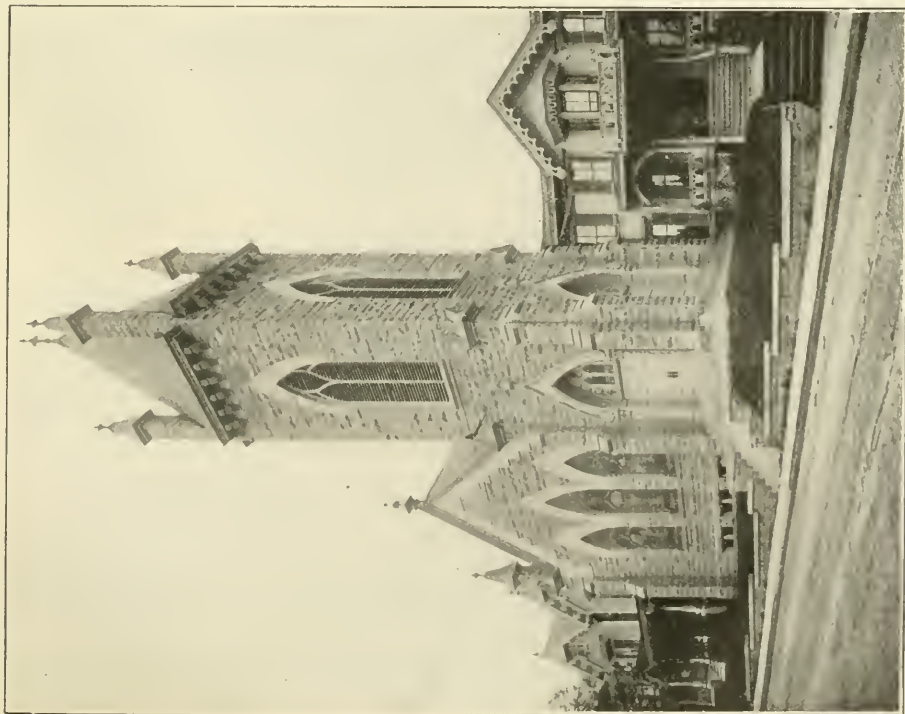
THE MERCURY

CIRCULATION 3,000

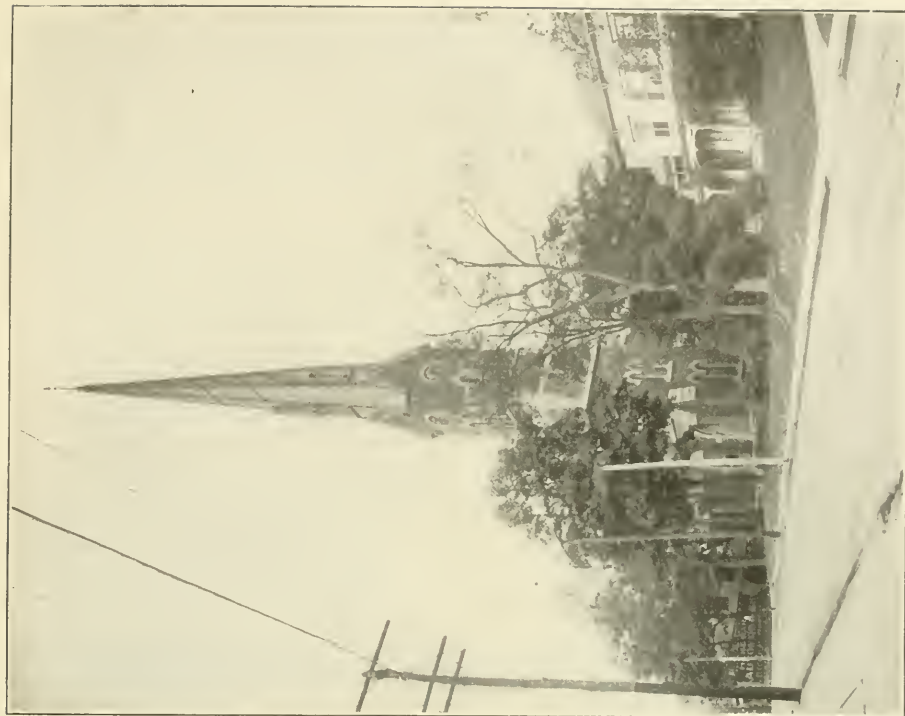
ARGUS AND MERCURY PUBLISHING COMPANY

20






CHRIST CHURCH ( UNIVERSALIST )



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COUNTY AND INVITE YOUR INSPECTION

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FUNERAL  
AND CEMETERY  
WORK OUR SPECIALTY  
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Builders

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Argus Building  
Middletown, N. Y.

the village of Middletown. About the year 1856 a law was passed providing for the election of school commissioners for assembly districts, thus doing away with the town system, and this system has ever since been continued, with some changes under the new law of last March.

On the 30th of January, 1841, a meeting was held to initiate the work of founding the Wallkill Academy. It was started as a private enterprise. Stock to the amount of \$3,656.75 was subscribed by 115 stockholders, the shares being \$5 each. Application was made to the Legislature for an act of incorporation which was passed in May, 1841. The building was completed in October, 1842, and soon after school sessions were opened, the first teacher being Rev. Phineas Robinson, who remained in charge for two years. For a number of years Wallkill Academy was continued under the plan of its first incorporation, but subsequently passed over to the village of Middletown as a part of its school system. The school system of the village of Middletown was always well managed and excellent results were obtained. This system was afterwards merged in the city school system upon the incorporation of the city of Middletown in 1888.

The management is now under a board of education consisting of nine members with superintendent of schools. There are now eight schools in the educational system of Middletown. The high school was erected on the site formerly occupied by the Wallkill Academy, and is a very imposing building with all modern facilities and conveniences. It employs sixteen teachers in the academic department and eleven in the grammar grades. The seven primary buildings are located in various parts of the city, so as to accommodate the pupils, but upon graduation in the primary grades all of the pupils are promoted to the Mulberry Street Grammar School Building and then to the various grades in the high school. The present superintendent of schools is James F. Tuthill.

## Officers and Teachers

## Churches

**M**IDDLETOWN as a village and city has always been well supplied with churches.

The first, the Congregational Church, was organized June 10, 1785, and incorporated August 12, 1786, and so far as organization and incorporation are concerned, it is the oldest church in Middletown. Rev. Walter Austin Wagner, pastor.

The First Presbyterian Church of Middletown, as such, was organized March 31, 1828. Rev. R. Ogilvie Kirkwood, D.D., present pastor.

The St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church of Middletown effected a legal organization on July 11, 1838. Rev. C. L. Walworth, pastor.

Grace Episcopal Church was incorporated February 18, 1845. Rev. F. S. Smithers, rector.

The First Baptist Church filed its certificate of incorporation October 28, 1849. Rev. F. P. Hunter, pastor.

Westminster Presbyterian Church was incorporated December 5, 1854. Rev. E. Van Dyke Wight, pastor.

Telephone, 64 Middletown

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**Successor to Geo. S. Belding**

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NEW YORK, ONTARIO, AND WESTERN RAILROAD STATION

The Primitive Old School Baptist Church of Middletown was incorporated May 29, 1871. H. C. Ker, elder.

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was incorporated November 20, 1861. Rev. J. Wm. H. Johnson, pastor.

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church was established in 1866. Very Rev. J. P. McClancy, pastor.

Calvary Baptist Church was incorporated in 1902. Rev. John A. Courtright, pastor.

North Street Congregational Church was incorporated in 1890. Rev. Charles H. Reynolds, pastor.

Christ Church (Universalist) was incorporated in 1897. Rev. S. Dow Butler, pastor.

St. John's Evangelistical Lutheran Church (German) was incorporated in 1897. Rev. A. H. Schaefer, pastor.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated in 1875. Wm. E. C. Gumbs, pastor.

Faith Mission was incorporated in 1889.

The Christian Science Church was incorporated in 1903.

It will be seen from the above that the churches of Middletown average about one to every 1,000 people of the present population.



Residence of H. D. Gould, Franklin St. F. J. Lindsey, Architect

## THE EDISON PORTLAND CEMENT CO.

H. D. GOULD CO., Agents

### H. D. GOULD COMPANY

Headquarters for

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☞ Try our tiger brand white rock finishing lime. Will not craze, chalk, work hot or burn, never pit. Costs less, saves labor and spreads easier than others. Once used, always used and recommended.

☞ Edison Portland Cement by the carload or barrel. A product put out by Thos. A. Edison. It is unequalled for quality and recommended by all architects. Used exclusively by this city in its North Street paving and repair work.

☞ Try us on doors, sash, blinds, glass, plasterboard, or anything you require in the building line; if we haven't got it, we can get it for you. We are right in quality and price and make prompt deliveries.

10 Railroad Ave., Middletown, N. Y.

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On account of its fine flour-like consistency it binds 10 per cent. more sand and in this way goes 10 per cent. further than any other cement. You are sure of the result in color, soundness and general economy. Tell your architect and builder that you want "Edison" and no other. Then be sure you get "Edison".

# Thrall Hospital

BY JOHN W. SLAUSON

ONE of the most valued and useful public institutions of Middletown is Thrall Hospital which affords efficient medical and surgical treatment to the citizens of the city and vicinity. It is a two-story, wooden building pleasantly located on Grove Street, and both it and the beautiful Thrall Park adjoining are due to the generosity of the late S. Mareta Thrall who gave them to the city.

The "hospital idea" originated with Dr. Julia E. Bradner, at the time a practicing physician of the city, who still lives to see the practical value of her developed plan. In November, 1887, a meeting was called by Dr. Bradner at her home at which time nine women formed an organization which was incorporated December 6th following. This was named "The Middletown Hospital Association" and its object was "to build and maintain a hospital in the village of Middletown."

By Mrs. Thrall's gift a few years later, of a lot and cash amounting together to over \$16,000, the present building was erected. The ladies of the Hospital Association by diligent effort had raised \$5,000, which was used for furnishing, and the building, furnished and equipped, was opened May 10, 1892.

Since that time no one can compute the good done by this institution or the suffering it has relieved. The very latest, up-to-date appliances are in use and the medical and surgical treatment is of the best. The management of the hospital is most successfully conducted by nine ladies who constitute a Board of Managers, aided by an Advisory Board made up of Middletown business men. The medical and surgical



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work is performed by the physicians of the city who rank deservedly high in the profession.

During the year 1909, the hospital treated 542 patients with an average daily number of 24. Of this number 462 were pay and part-pay patients; 43 were city charity and 37 were hospital charity. The hospital has to be self-supporting as nearly as possible, so a charge is made for service performed when the patient is able to pay it; but no urgent case, no matter whether pay or charity, is ever turned away without every effort being made for its relief. The institution has an invested fund of over \$55,000, but, under the terms of bequest, only the income can be used for current expenses.

The hospital maintains a Nurse's Training School, the graduates of which stand deservedly high and their services are highly appreciated by the people.

There is pressing need for a Children's Ward and for more room in the general hospital, both of which it is hoped will be soon provided, thus adding to the scope and usefulness of this beneficent institution.

## Middletown State Homoeopathic Hospital

BY DR. MAURICE C. ASHLEY

**N**EARLY forty years ago, in 1869, several of the citizens of what was then the village of Middletown decided that a hospital for the insane was needed in this vicinity. Funds were collected and a farm was purchased on the western border of the village, for a site for an asylum, as such institutions were

**Organization** then called. Dr. George F. Foote endeavored to raise money by subscription for a private asylum. To this end \$75,000 was subscribed, the amount expended for a site and to build part of the institution, all of which was finally accepted by the commonwealth as a free-will offering from comparatively few generous subscribers.

The first appropriation by the State for the institution was made in 1870. The original board of trustees numbered twenty-one, appointed by the Governor. The first superintendent, Dr. Foote, having resigned, Dr. Henry R.

**Superintendents** Stiles was appointed in his stead. He served until February 9, 1877, and then resigned. He was succeeded by the late Selden H. Talcott, who served until his death in 1902, when the present incumbent, Dr. Maurice C. Ashley, was appointed to succeed him, and is now in charge of the institution.

Among the early trustees, who were residents of Orange County, may be recalled the well-known names of Daniel Thompson, John G. Wilkin, Moses D. Stivers, James G. Graham, Henry R. Low, Elisha P. Wheeler, Dr. Joshua A. Draper, James B. Hulse, James H. Norton, Nathaniel W. Vail, and Uzal T. Hayes.

The hospital was incorporated in 1869, opened for the reception of patients on the 20th day of April, 1874, and the first patient was admitted May 7, 1874.

To give an idea of the present magnitude of this great public charity it seems fitting that a few figures should go on record where they will be permanently preserved.

The farm and grounds comprise nearly 300 acres, on which there are thirty build-

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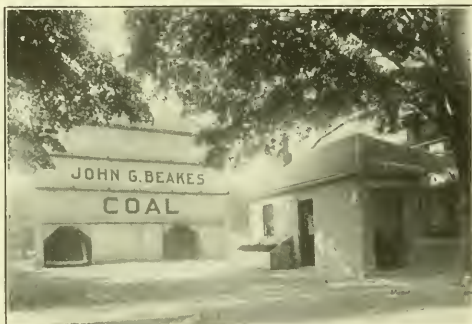
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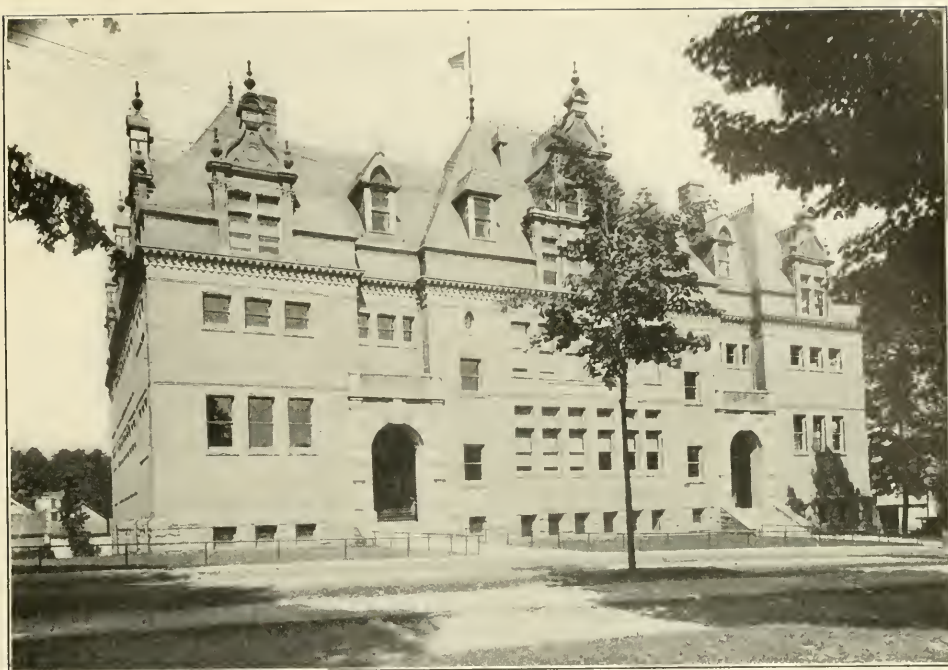
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ings; the value of the real and personal property is over \$2,000,000; the present annual expenses for all purposes, excepting the new building, are about \$300,000, of which nearly \$60,000 is received from private and reimbursing patients; about \$110,000 is required for salaries and wages. Since the opening of the institution over 8,000 patients have been received and treated. Of this number 3,000 have been discharged recovered, and returned to their homes and society, and 1,200 others have been sufficiently restored or improved to enable them to return to their families. The number of patients under treatment at the present time is 1,996.

## Hospital Statistics

The present normal capacity of the hospital for patients is 2,000.

The hospital district comprises Orange, Sullivan, Ulster, and Rockland Counties, but those desiring homœopathic treatment are received from any part of the State.

During all these years, the hospital has been conducted upon homœopathic principles, following strictly the practice and principles of homœopathy in the selection of the medicines and treatment of patients. This is in compliance of the law under which the hospital was first incorporated, and the result, in all respects, would seem to warrant the continuance of the present form of treatment and management.

In compliance with the law, a training school for nurses and attendants has been established and maintained for some years with the most satisfactory results.

A few years ago all the asylums were placed under State control, and then became known as State Hospitals. A board of local managers with modified duties took the place of the old board of trustees.

The board of managers of the hospital, as at present constituted, consists of William H. Rogers of Middletown, N. Y., president; Ira L. Case of Middletown, N. Y.,

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secretary; Wm. A. Lawrence of Goshen, N. Y.; Mrs. Julia M. Cary and Mrs. H. L. Langhaar of New York City; Charles L. Mead and James B. Carson of Middletown, N. Y. The attorney for the hospital is William B. Royce of Middletown, N. Y. This handsome building is shown on another page.

## Business Men's Association

By R. M. RORTY

**T**HE Business Men's Association of Middletown was organized February 3, 1898—incorporated November 20, 1902. Its object was to promote the business interests of the city, and incidentally to assist by united action every movement which tended to advance in any way the moral elevation and civic culture of its people. In the twelve years of its existence it has accomplished many worthy and commendable things, it has aided to the best of its ability in building up and producing concerted effort in commercial circles, it has helped to further every reform which appealed to its unbiased judgment, and has been as a matter of history, a force for good and uplift in the community.

The moving cause in its formation was the abuse of the premium business, an abuse which culminated in that parasitic form known as trading stamps. In the effort to impede this form of the premium business, the trading portion of the community found themselves haled to court as "conspirators." That experience taught them the necessity of a body which could act as a unit in preventing the future growth of such abuses, and also awakened them to the many ways in which they could effectively act



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for mutual interest and protection, hence the organization known as the Business Men's Association of Middletown, N. Y.

Its primary object has been to increase the growth and commerce of the city, to encourage manufacturing, to build up and perfect trading interests and facilities. A steady and persistent increase has been attained and the people of Middletown may be congratulated on the fact that as a residence city it has few superiors in the State—its schools maintain a high standard, its water supply is ample, its transportation facilities are first class. Every convenience which comfort or even luxury may require are here for the use and convenience of its citizens.

Perhaps no phase of its existence has been more worthy of note than the unselfish service the association has had in the various presidents who have represented well the many forms of commerce in the city. No discords, no petty jealousies have marred its history, its fellowship has been full of harmony and good will, the only object being a worthy pride in our city, combined with a desire to further its best interests. It is looked upon as a civic force for good—a power for necessary reform, in all municipal affairs.

## Charitable and Benevolent Organizations

**I**N the year 1880, the matter of establishing a Children's Home for Orange County was brought up in the board of supervisors. A committee, consisting of the Hon. William H. Clark, Selah E. Strong, and William B. Royce, was appointed to take the matter under consideration and report. After a careful investigation and examination of a large number of properties, the committee reported that in its judgment the property known as the Israel O. Beattie property in the village of Middletown was better adapted for the purpose than any other property that had been brought to the notice of the committee. The property at the time was owned by the Mutual Life Insurance Company of the city of New York, and after negotiations a price was fixed by the company at \$8,000. The price was approved by the board and the committee was ordered to purchase the property, which was subsequently done. The sum of \$2,000 was appropriated for the use of the committee in making such repairs and changes as might be deemed necessary to fit the property for immediate use. The committee, having completed its duties, reported to the board on the 21st of November, 1881, that its work was completed and that there had been expended \$9,910.05, leaving a balance of \$89.95 in the hands of the committee.

Previous to the making of this report, the property had been turned over to the county superintendent of the poor, and it was formally opened on February 7, 1881. On the first day of November, 1910, twenty-four children were being cared for in the home.

The Orange County Home for Aged Women is located at No. 27 South Street, in the city of Middletown, and like the Children's Home is not limited to the city of Middletown with regard to the territory from which its inmates are received. It was incorporated in 1884, the idea emanating from the fertile brain of Dr. Julia E. Bradner. The home now has become a well known institution, not only in the city of Middletown, but in the county of Orange.

The cemetery grounds of the Hillside Cemetery Corporation, formerly Hillside



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Cemetery Association, are located in the southwest part of the city. The cemetery has many natural advantages from contour of the land, virgin forests, and running streams. To these have been added about twelve miles of macadamized road and drives, with gracefully curving paths and winding walks. A great deal of shrubbery and many flowering plants have been set out and in the summer the scene is a most lovely one. Surely Hillside Cemetery is a beautiful resting-place for the dead.

**Middletown Daily Times-Press** The *Middletown Daily Times-Press* is the leading newspaper in the city of Middletown and vicinity, and was established as the *Middletown Daily Times* May 15th, 1891, by L. S. & J. D. Stivers. From the beginning its success was evident, and year after year its popularity has increased, until in February, 1906, shortly after the death of the senior partner, Lewis S. Stivers, the Stivers Printing Company was organized and incorporated, with John D. Stivers president and editor and Moses A. Stivers secretary and treasurer. At this time the business took over the *Middletown Press*, the oldest daily newspaper in the city. This consolidation of the two leading papers gave the *Times-Press* a much larger circulation which has grown steadily, placing the *Times-Press* in the rank of the leading dailies of the state. The service it gives to readers and advertisers is excelled by no other newspaper in its class. A semi-weekly edition of the *Times-Press* circulates widely in Orange and nearby counties, reaching the homes of the prosperous farmers in this territory.

Ever on the alert to better serve its patrons, the *Times-Press*, in February, 1909, installed a Duplex Rotary Perfecting twenty-page press and a complete metropolitan stereotyping outfit with a capacity of 30,000 papers an hour. With an equipment throughout the whole plant on an equal plane with its press facilities, and a well organized and competent business and editorial staff, this newspaper stands by itself as a factor in the advancement and progress of the city in which it is published.

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The Stivers Printing Company also conducts a large job and commercial printing department, fully equipped with modern machinery and type faces. An up-to-date photo-engraving department, together with the latest stereotyping machinery and appliances, makes the mechanical departments complete. H. H. Knickerbocker is the manager.

The *Middletown Daily Argus* and the *Middletown Mercury* have been before the public so long that little introduction is necessary. The *Argus* was founded in 1876, making its first appearance on January 27th of that year, under the proprietorship of the late Cornelius Macardell. On January 1st, 1878, the *Argus* consolidated with the *Middletown Mercury*, a weekly paper established in 1859, by Coe Finch, and owned at the time of consolidation by the late George H. Thompson. The firm of Thompson & Macardell was continued until 1888, when for a short period Leon Barritt was admitted to partnership. In 1889 Mr. Macardell purchased the interests of both his partners and continued as sole owner until 1896, when he disposed of his interests to his son, Cornelius Macardell, Jr., who continued the business until the formation of the Argus and Mercury Publishing Company, incorporated, in April, 1906. The old landmark which served for the home of these newspapers for so many years was torn down during the summer of 1906 and the handsome office building, here reproduced, was erected on the site. The main part of the building is four stories in



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height, the main floor of which is devoted to the general office of the paper. The new management has installed new presses, new type, and a complete new equipment throughout, a spirit of enterprise which the advertisers and reading public have been quick to recognize, as is witnessed by the increase in the number of columns of advertising and the increased subscription list.

A new incorporation of the company went into effect on February 1st, 1910. Hon. C. A. Evans purchased stock in the new company and was elected secretary and treasurer and created business manager. Mr. A. B. Macardell was elected president of the company and Mr. Cor. Macardell and Mr. Nicholson retired from the directory. Under the new management the paper has met with phenomenal success.

As a manufacturing centre Middletown is steadily growing in importance; the character of its factories and mills is such that they do not conflict in any way with the residential interests or mar the beauty of the city with unsightly nuisances. While all worthy and desirable enterprises are welcomed here and given all possible assistance and encouragement by the city government, as well as by the Business Men's Association, still all industries are carefully supervised and objectionable features eliminated. Among the larger and more important industries located here should be mentioned the

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**The Howell-Hinchman Company** T. P. Howell of Newark, N. J., Joseph Hinchman and U. T. Hayes of Middletown. The last two members were the managers of the plant which then occupied a frame building, corner of Fulton and Canal Streets, Middletown. The firm was incorporated under the laws of New Jersey in 1889. Mr. Joseph Hinchman retired previous to the incorporation and the principal stockholders were T. P. Howell and Company and U. T. Hayes, the latter being president of the company. The plant was at that time managed by U. T. Hayes and his two sons, H. M. Hayes and T. E. Hayes. Mr. U. T. Hayes died March 5th, 1910, and the present officers are: T. E. Hayes, president and treasurer; H. M. Hayes, vice-president and assistant treasurer; Charles A. Adams, secretary; U. T. Hayes, Jr., assistant secretary. The present establishment is a brick building occupying a whole city block, 200 x 725 feet, and gives employment to 200 people. The present capacity is 1,000 spready steer hides weekly, and the company has trade all over the United States, also exporting to all foreign countries. The principal output of the plant is the highest grade of Patent and Enamel leathers for Automobiles, Furniture and Carriage Upholstery, also an extensive line of Book-Binders' Leather. It is a matter of pride with the Company that the plant has never been shut down since 1865 except for holidays and one week annually for necessary repairs. An illustration of the plant is shown.





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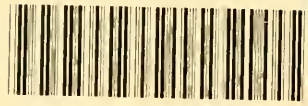








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